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February 16, 2007

Anna Hazel
Criminal Investigator
Merced County District Attorney's Office
658 W 20th St.
Merced, CA 95340
Fax: 209-725-3669

Dear Ms. Hazel:

As a follow up to our previous correspondence to your office regarding evidence of ongoing violations of California's animal cruelty law at Gemperle Enterprises, I am submitting to your office new evidence Farm Sanctuary has received documenting the aforementioned abusive conditions at Gemperle Enterprises. In light of this new evidence, Farm Sanctuary respectfully reiterates its request that your office initiate a thorough investigation of Gemperle Enterprises and its violations of California's animal cruelty code.

We believe that the videotape and photographic, provided to Farm Sanctuary, as well as statements from veterinarians and other experts Farm Sanctuary previously provided to your office, provide credible evidence of serious, systemic, unjustified and unlawful animal cruelty at Gemperle's egg farm facilities, and we believe this situation warrants your office's immediate attention.

As you may recall, on June 28, 2006, Farm Sanctuary provided your office with extensive video and photographic documentation of abusive conditions at Gemperle Enterprises. The video evidence provided in this initial evidence packet was compiled between the dates of September 2004 and September 2005 at the Gemperle Farms location of 18524 August Road, Hilmar, CA and showed clear evidence of blatant violations of California Penal Code sections 597(a), 597(b), 597(f) and 597(t).

In early February, 2007, Farm Sanctuary again received video and photographic evidence taken at a Gemperle Enterprises facility located at 17265 Schendel Road, Delhi, CA 95315. The dates for the current evidence are: December 13, 2006, December 21, 2006, January 29, 2007 and February 9, 2007. The conditions depicted in this second compilation of evidence taken at the Schendel Road location mirror almost exactly those documented a year earlier at Gemperle's August Road facility and indicate an ongoing, systemic problem of animal cruelty within the facility.

The intensive confinement, filthy conditions, and neglect of hundreds of thousands of animals are apparent throughout the videotape and represent unjustifiable, blatant animal abuse. We believe that that severity of the animal suffering, coupled with the enormity of its scope, is inexcusable and demands the immediate attention of your office. For these reasons, I urge you to review the enclosed evidence and instigate an immediate investigation of Gemperle Enterprises to ensure that further animals do not suffer and die needlessly and terribly at Gemperle Enterprises facilities throughout Merced County.

Farm Sanctuary is willing to offer our assistance and expertise in the course of your investigation. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you feel you could use our assistance.

Sincerely,

Gene Baur
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